AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A medical information system, said system comprising:

a medical information source, said medical information source providing medical information in a medical information format;

a medical image source, said medical image source providing medical images in a medical image format;

an interface unit adapted to receive said medical information, wherein said interface unit is adapted to automatically translate said medical information into a medical image format-compatible format, wherein said interface unit is adapted to receive said medical image, wherein said interface unit is adapted to automatically create associated medical data including at least one of a link to said medical information and said medical information in said medical image format-compatible format associated with at least one of a link to said medical image and said medical image, and transmitting said associated medical data, said medical image and medical information associated for transmission as associated medical data in said medical-image format compatible format based on a common identification element; and

a data center receiving said associated medical data and storing for later retrieval said associated medical data including at least one of a link to said medical information and said medical information associated with at least one of a link to said medical image and said medical image.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center comprises an archive for storing medical images and medical information.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center comprises a viewer for allowing access to medical images and medical information.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said medical image source comprises a picture archiving and communications system.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said medical information source comprises a hospital information system.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said medical information source comprises a radiology information system.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center comprises an application service provider.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center further comprises an external access interface for allowing users to access medical images and medical information at said data center.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said medical information comprises radiology information.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said interface comprises a broker for translating said medical information format.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said broker translates from Health Level Seven format to Structured Query Language format.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center comprises a web server for allowing access to medical images and medical information via at least one web browser.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center comprises a DICOM viewing workstation for allowing access to medical images and medical information.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center further stores links to said medical information.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said data center further stores links to said medical image.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said interface unit transmits a link representing the location of said medical information

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said interface unit transmits a link representing the location of said medical image.

18. (Currently Amended) A centralized medical information system, said system comprising:

an interface unit adapted to receive medical information, wherein said interface unit is adapted to automatically translate said medical information into a medical image format-compatible format, wherein said interface unit is adapted to receive a medical image, wherein said interface unit is adapted to automatically create associated medical data including at least one of a link to said medical information and said medical information in said medical image format-compatible format associated with at least one of a link to said medical image and said medical image, and transmitting said associated medical data, said medical image and medical information associated for transmission as associated medical in said medical-image format compatible format data based on a common identification element; and

a data center receiving said associated medical data and storing for later retrieval said associated medical data including at least one of a link to said medical information and said medical information associated with at least one of a link to said medical image and said medical image.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said data center comprises an archive for storing medical images and medical information.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said data center comprises a viewer for allowing access to medical images and medical information.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said data center comprises an application service provider.

22. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said data center further comprises an external access interface for allowing users to access medical images and medical information at the data center.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said medical information comprises radiology information.

24. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said interface unit comprises a broker for translating said medical information format.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said broker translates from Health Level 7 format to Structured Query Language format.

26. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said data center comprises a web server for allowing access to medical images and medical information via web browsers.

27. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said interface unit transmits a link representing the location of said medical information.

28. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said interface unit transmits a link representing the location of said medical image.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for integrating transmission of medical information and at least one medical image, said method comprising:

converting said medical information from a first format into a second format compatible with said at least one medical image;

automatically creating an association between said medical information in said second format with said at least one medical image at an interface unit, said at least one medical

image and said medical information in said second format associated for transmission based on a common identification element; and

transmitting substantially together in time said medical information in said second format with said at least one medical image and said association to a data center for storage for later retrieval based on said common identification element.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising storing said medical information in said second format with said at least one medical image in said data center.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising storing said medical information in said second format with said at least one medical image in an archive said data center.

32. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising storing said medical information in said second format with said at least one medical image in a web based viewer in said data center.

33. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said data center comprises an application service provider.

34. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said medical information comprises radiology information.

35. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said first format comprises Health Level Seven format.

36. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said second format comprises Structured Query Language format.

37. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said second format comprises a standard text format.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing medical information and images, said method comprising:

retrieving an associated medical image and medical information, said medical image and medical information stored and automatically associated for transmission in a medical-image format compatible format based on a common identification element, wherein at least one of said medical image is retrieved from a link to said medical image stored at said remote data center and said medical information is retrieved from a link to said medical information stored at said remote data center; and

displaying said associated medical image and medical information.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said data center comprises an application service provider.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein said step of retrieving further comprises retrieving said associated medical image and medical information via an archive of said data center.

41. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said step of retrieving further comprises retrieving said medical image from a medical image source via said data center.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said medical image source comprises a picture archiving and communication system.

43. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said step of retrieving further comprises retrieving said medical information from a medical information source via said data center.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein said medical information source comprises a hospital information system.

45. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein said medical information source comprises a radiology information system.

46. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said step of displaying further comprises displaying said associated medical image and medical information via a web server at said data center.

47. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing medical information and images, said method comprising:

requesting an associated medical image and medical information from a remote data center, said medical image and medical information stored and automatically associated for transmission in a medical-image format compatible format based on a common identification element;

providing a link to medical information from a medical information source to an interface unit;

providing a link to a medical image from a medical image source to an interface unit;

combining said link to said medical information and with said link to said medical image; and

providing said combination to said remote data center.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein said medical information source comprises a hospital information system.

49. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein said medical information source comprises a radiology information system.

50. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein said medical image source comprises a picture archiving and communication system.